

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-15 SIL-01 LAB-06 RSR-01 /121 W

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R 080905Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1115

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1153

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV SOB

SUBJ: SOMALI DOMESTIC SCENE

SUMMARY: ALMOST ON ANNIVERSARY OF HIS "MARXISM-LENINISM" SPEECH AT HALANE, SIAD HAS DELIVERED IMPORTANT POLITICAL SIAEGQ OUTLINING FLEXIBLE AND PRAGMATIC ADAPTATION OF SOCIALIST PRINCIPLES TO SOMALI REALITIES. SPEECH APPEARS TO BE RESPONSE TO PRESSURES FROM ELEMENTS IN REGIME FAVORING MORE ORTHODOX MARXIST APPROACH. END SUMMARY.

1. SIAD'S SPEECH TO CIVIL SERVANTS IN MOGADISCIO'S NATIONAL THEATER AUGUST 3 PRIMARILY DEVOTED TO DOMESTIC POLITICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL ISSUES, WITH MAJOR THEME THAT SOCIALISM IN SOMALIA CANNOT BE BUILT ON CLASS BASIS SINCE ALL SOMALIS ARE "WORKERS," WHETHER FARMERS,(SHOP KEEPERS, CIVIL SERVANTS OR INDUSTRIAL LABORERS. HE ATTACKED AS "IGNORANT INTELLECTUALS" THOSE WHO TRY TO DIVIDE SOMALIS INTO CLASSES. SIAD STATED THAT "ORIENTATION" PHASE OF REVOLUTION WAS COMPLETED AND IT WAS TIME BEGIN SOCIALIST CONSTRUCTION; HE ACCUSED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES OF BEING DILATORY IN CARRYING OUT SRC DECISIONS, PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATING TO ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKERS' COMMITTEES IN EACH

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ORGANIZATION. SIAD CONTINUED HIS CONSPICUOUS AVOIDANCE OF

TERM "MARXISM" AND EVEN AVOIDED THE MORE COMMON "SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM".

2. SPEECH IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTING IN THAT IT APPEARS TO BE A RESPONSE TO PRESSURES FROM ELEMENTS WITHIN REGIME FAVORING FASTER MOVEMENT IN DIRECTION OF ESTABLISHING MORE ORTHODOX MARXIST INSTITUTIONS IN SOMALIA. THESE PRESSURES BECAME EVIDENT WITH RECENT PUBLICATION IN NEW ERA (MONTHLY ISSUED BY MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE) OF EXCERPTS FROM A REPORT WRITTEN BY FINSEC WEIRAH AND MOHAMED OMAR, HEAD OF NATIONAL POLITICAL OFFICE (SEE BELOW) CALLING FOR FORMATION OF MARXIST-LENINIST PARTY OF WORKERS, PEASANTS, SOLDIERS AND REVOLUTIONARY INTELLECTUALS. REPORT TAKES LINE THAT CLASS STRUGGLE INEVITABLE, EVEN IN SOMALIA, AND NOTES THAT "PROLETARIAT MUST SEIZE POWER." BRIEF REFERENCE IN REPORT TO SIAD'S VIEWS ON ESTABLISHMENT OF MARXIST PARTY CARRIES IMPLICATION THAT HE HAS GIVEN IT VERBAL SUPPORT BUT LITTLE ELSE ("LEADER OF REVOLUTION UNDERSCORES INEVITABILITY OF ITS CREATION, BUT QUESTION IS WHEN, WHERE AND WHO IS TO FORM?").

3. REPORT DELIVERED AT SEMINAR ORGANIZED BY SECRETARY FOR CULTURE AND HIGHER EDUCATION MOHAMED ADEN, WHO, ALONG WITH WEIRAH, CONSIDERED AMONG MOST INFLUENTIAL, AND LEFTIST, OF SIAD'S CIVILIAN MINISTERS. REDESIGNATION OF PRO AS "NATIONAL POLITICAL OFFICE" IN MID-JULY ALSO INTERPRETED BY MANY HERE TO BE STEP IN DIRECTION OF FORMATION OF MARXIST POLITICAL PARTY. THERE IS UNCONFIRMED REPORT FROM LOCAL SOURCE THAT SOVIET EMBASSY HAS BEEN PRESSING SIAD HARD TO TAKE SUCH A STEP.

4. SIAD'S SPEECH APPEARS TO REPRESENT A DECISIVE REJECTION, AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING, OF THIS APPROACH (AND IS FIRST INDICATION OF RIFT BETWEEN SIAD AND TWO OF HIS CLOSEST ADVISERS). WHETHER THIS REJECTION STEMS FROM TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS (POPULAR RESISTANCE TO ANYTHING ASSOCIATED WITH MARXIST IS STILL WIDESPREAD) OR BECAUSE SIAD NOW CONVINCED THAT MARXIST CATEGORIES DO NOT FIT SOMALI REALITIES IS PURE CONJECTURE AT THIS STAGE. HOWEVER SIAD'S ENDORSEMENT OF A FLEXIBLE AND PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO BUILDING SOCIALISM IN SOMALIA IS ANOTHER INDICATION THAT SOMALIS -- AND SIAD IN PARTICULAR -- CONTINUE TO BE ABLE TO REJECT SOVIET IDEOLOGICAL ADVICE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MOGADI01153
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS CROMWELL
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MOGADISCIO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730851/aaaablg1.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <06-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOMALI DOMESTIC SCENE SUMMARY: ALMOST ON ANNIVERSARY OF HIS "MARXISM-LENINISM"
TAGS: PGOV, SO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005